

Appl. No.: 09/822,064
Amendment dated September 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant is appreciative of the Examiner's efforts in trying to conduct a concise and thorough examination of the present invention.

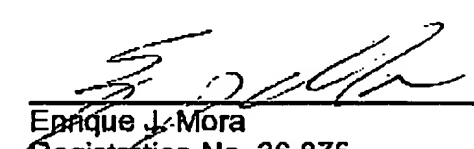
Claims 1-16, and 18-22 stand rejected as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,282,204 (hereinafter Shpancer). Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is solicited in view of the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully notes that the present application has a filing date of March 30, 2001. The filing date of Shpancer is April 13, 2002. Thus, it would appear that based on dates alone, Shpancer is not an appropriate reference for anticipating claims 1-16, and 18-22. Accordingly, applicant kindly requests that this basis of rejection be removed.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims pending in this application recites patentable subject matter and it is further submitted that such claims comply with all statutory requirements and thus each of such claims should be allowed.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspects of this Reply/Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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